

USCGC MIDGETT (WHEC-726)

MIDGETT NEWSLETTER

2012 ALPAT VOL. I

Letter from Captain

"A ship in port is safe but that's not what ships are built for. Sail out to sea and do new things." - RADM G. Hopper, USN

After over four months in port, MIDGETT is once again doing what it was built for—plying the waters in support of Coast Guard missions. Getting and keeping a 41 year-old ship running well is an increasingly difficult task and our crew did a terrific job preparing the ship and refurbishing many old systems. As with any summer transfer period, we said goodbye to old shipmates and welcomed new ones aboard. As one of those newly reported crewmembers, I have been incredibly impressed by the dedication of our crew and am honored to be their commanding officer.

We left port on Sept. 3rd, taking several days to "shakedown" the ship & ensure things were running well; we then headed to Kodiak, Alaska, to receive training, do some maintenance, & take on equipment for the helicopter aviation detachment that is sailing with us. We are sailing on an "Alaska Patrol" (ALPAT), charged with providing search and rescue response to mariners, particularly commercial fishermen, as well as conducting law enforcement boardings on fishing vessels to check compliance with safety and fishing regulations in the Bering Sea & Gulf of Alaska. We were honored by a visit from the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard while in Kodiak, who praised the ship and crew. We have just completed a port call in Dutch Harbor and look forward to the remainder of our patrol and coming home. Thank you for your support of your MIDGETT sailor!

- L. M. Dickey, CAPT, Commanding Officer

XO's Corner

Family, Friends & shipmates,

It feels good to be back underway after what turned out to be an extended in port period over the summer. Yes, there is some sadness over the separation, but we all joined the Coast Guard to serve, and serving at sea is certainly a big part of what we do. A tremendous amount of work was accomplished while we were in Seattle, as many of you know. That work is certainly paying off as the ship is running, while maybe not quite as good as new, but pretty good for being over 40 years old. In addition to making sure the repairs and upgrades are working properly, we have re-tuned ourselves through drills and training to ensure the crew is running as well as the equipment.

As many of you know, Cindy Geelan has moved on due to her husband's transfer over the summer. Layne Brummett has taken over the ombudsman duties, with Jennifer Simmons backing her up. Layne can be reached at midgettombudsman02@gmail.com, and Jenn is midgettombudsman04@gmail.com. If there is something you have a question about, or need to get hold of the ship in an emergency, contact either of them and they will assist as best they can.

J. F. Neumann, Executive Officer

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OPERATIONS Department

Welcome to the OPS Dept. I am the new Operations Officer onboard and I must say that it is great to be around such wonderful hard working individuals. The Operations department continues to impress me day in and day out. From the newest Seaman to the most experienced Chief it is great to see MIDGETT come together for our operational goals.

For those at home, thank you for all that you do and for keeping all of the pieces together and things moving forward. I know that we could not do it without you. We love you and miss you and look forward to seeing your smiling faces when we return.

LT Gerrod Glauner, Operations Officer



BMI Alley and SN Thompson plotting during an inbound evolution

OPERATIONS Department Division Spotlight: Navigation Division

Martial Arts, the elusive art of training your body to be a weapon, with precision and accuracy... pretty much sums up "The Navigation Ninjas" (ENS Cederstrom, BMC Gamad, BMI Alley, BM2 Suda, BM3 Patino, SN Thompson and SN Feuerstein). A newly formed faction dedicated to precision, excellence, and mastery of the art of Navigation, conquered, and tamed these feral charts of Alaskan waters, fearing neither shoal water nor precision anchorages. Their never ceasing attention to detail, unwavering dedication to duty and unmatched enthusiasm for navigation has ensured MIDGETT's safe transit while away from home. These young grasshoppers have only just begun their journey of navigational professional development. Next on the agenda: celestial navigation and semaphore. Columbus, Magellan, Lord Horatio Nelson we salute thee!

"We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea, whether it is to sail or to watch - we are going back from whence we came." - JFK

-ENS Cederstrom

WEAPONS Department

We are more than half way through our patrol and we've got a lot to show for! During our first week the Gunner Mates, with help from the other divisions, unloaded thousands of rounds of ammunition. It took a lot of planning and shipwide teamwork to get them onboard in just a few hours. Thank you to the entire ship for a successful evolution! Before starting our patrol in the Bering Sea, members of the Law Enforcement Team trained at the North Pacific Regional Fisheries School. They learned how to identify fish, read fishermen's log books, and understand the state and federal fishing regulations. It is a lot of information to learn in just 4 days, but the team worked long days and ended the training with a mock scenario proving our team was ready to start our mission. Just a couple of weeks into the patrol the Law Enforcement Team conducted over half a dozen boardings, including working hard during good weather opportunities to get 4 boardings just in a half day's work. It's a shipwide effort to conduct boardings, from the initial planning and identification of the vessels by the Operations Specialists and Aviation Team, issuing boarding gear by the Duty GMs, launching the small boats by our BMs, to the safe navigation of our ship alongside the fishing fleet by our Bridge Watch Team, the wide-range of communication capabilities from our ETs and OSs and the safe recovery and refueling of the small boats from our Engineers. The GMs, Fire Control and Operations ETs along with our IT Specialist conduct daily Preventative Maintenance on our large caliber weapons, navigation and communication electronics, and computer network in order to keep our defensive and offensive capabilities running. As a Department we plan intensive drills simulating war battles to test and train our abilities to defend our ship and nation. We integrate our training with the other Departments and gain proficiency in working as a unit to succeed through battle damage. Thank you for your support and making what we do a team success!

LTJG Andrea Rice, Weapons Officer

**WEAPONS Department Division Spotlight:
Gunnery Division**

On the 12th of September 2012, the Gunnery Division of USCGC Midgett, consisting of GM3 Loring, GM3 Melara, GM3 Rodgers, GM1 Jones, and GMC Feik, conducted a rescue pyrotechnics familiarization for the crew. Over the course of an hour, the evening sky was made alight by a myriad of colors from multicolored MK79 flare kits and MK124 Day Night Flares. The event concluded when GM3 Rodgers sent aloft the bright and dazzling spectacle of a MK127 Rocket Assisted White Parachute Flare. The purpose of the exercise was to familiarize the crew with how to use these tools in the event of an emergency.

-GM3 Melara

ENS Bareno activates a flare

Crew members receive training before taking part in the evolution

SUPPORT Department

First off I'd like to say fair winds and following sea to CWO Holly Boehme, whose retirement should be final by the time you're reading this. I appreciate all the hard work she did while she was here to leave the department in such great shape with a great group of shipmates. The Support Department does just that. We support everyone and every department on board. We prepare meals 4 times a day for 170 people, we manage a spare parts inventory with over 3000 line items and manage a budget of over...\$1 MMMillion dollars... (thanks Dr. Evil), we administer health care and first aid training, and we make sure people get paid and weighed without delay. Bottom line is we take care of our people so they can focus on the mission at hand.

The people in Support Department are a dedicated group of professionals, and I am proud to serve with them on this fine Cutter. It's almost the end of the Fiscal Year, so I have to go now. Thanks for reading!

-CWO Joel Moore, Support Officer

SUPPORT Department Division Spotlight: Food Services Division

The Food Service division is led by FSCS David Pace, recently reported from TRACEN Cape May, New Jersey. Senior Chief is the Food Service Officer and oversees an operating budget of around \$30,000-\$40,000 a month depending how many days are in the month and how many personnel are on board. It's challenging work to put out 170 meals 3 times a day, in a galley not much bigger than most people's kitchens at home, while rocking and rolling in the swells. But the FS division has demonstrated that they are up to the challenge day in and day out and have been putting out fantastic food! The following personnel assist Senior Chief in putting out some of the best food outside of a Flag Mess in the Coast Guard: FS1 Doug Van Kampen; FS1 John Carter (not the comic book hero); FS2 Jiranda Doty (recently advanced, Congrats!), FS2 Rayleen Crader, FS3 Leo Chavez (Brevity is the soul of wit), FS3 Shannon Irish, FS3 Jessica (Ty-Resa) Lapp, FS3 Jonathan King, FS3 Andrew Rodriguez, FS3 Ben Kennedy and FS3 Claire Fraser.

-CWO Moore



ENGINEERING Department

The engineers aboard MIDGETT have been kept very busy to date—working on watch station qualifications (security, auxiliary, machinery, throttlesman and Engineer Officer of the Watch (EOW)) and those for associated collateral duties (aviation fuel team member and firefighting, Damage Control PQS, boat engineer, incinerator, etc.) as well as doing preventative maintenance (keeping equipment up and running) and corrective maintenance (fixing equipment that has broken.) Nearly 40% of the ship's crew turned over during the summer so those who have been qualified previously are working hard training our new shipmates on how to stand a safe diligent watch and what it means to be an Engineer in MIDGETT. Special congrats to EM1 Steve Schaadt for his EOW qualification and to **MK2 Steve Storey for being MIDGETT's Sailor of the Quarter!** Well deserved in both cases.

After a lengthy summer FILLED with a heavy load of depot level maintenance (numerous dockside repairs, Main Diesel Engine Center Section Overhaul, internal and external deck repairs, watertight fitting refurb), the ship is running better than ever—truly a reflection of the dedication and inexhaustible efforts of MIDGETT's professional engineering workforce. For the most part, that means a bit more time on the beach during our portcalls for all, which is certainly well deserved.

The Engineers of MIDGETT wish the best to you and all the families on the beach,
-LCDR Brook Sherman, Engineer Officer



CWO John Brummett takes a break in Kodiak to text home

Engineering Department Division Spotlight: Auxiliary Division (AUX)

Joined by Chief Sheppard for patrol, the Auxiliary division team of 14 has been hard at work to ensure all of the machinery outside of the engine room, around the ship, remains operational, specifically the machinery that provides for meeting the basic needs of the entire crew. Thanks in large part to our FOWK, MK1 Brackin, we have fuel to feed the hungry engines and turbines; thanks to MK2 Storey, we have reefers/refrigeration to feed the crew; and thanks to many hands for the upkeep of the boilers for warm showers, warm food, and clean, dry clothes. With much accomplished thus far including Security Qualifications, PMS, CART preps, filters, JP-5, and small boat operations, and some help from Coke and Doritos, it's crazy how quick the first month has flown by.

—ENS Katie Schumacher
Auxiliary Division Officer



MIDGETT Change of Command

CAPTAIN DICKEY RELIEVES CAPTAIN MEESE



On July 12, 2012, MIDGETT hosted a change of command ceremony, as Captain Laura Dickey relieved Captain Meese as Commanding Officer of MIDGETT. The crew along with many family and friends wit-

nessed the event. Vice Admiral Paul Zukunft, Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area, presided over the change of command. He had strong commendations for Captain Meese's

work on MIDGETT during the past two years, which included two counter drug patrols and one fisheries enforcement patrol. Captain Dickey comes to MIDGETT from Newport, RI, having completed the senior course of study at the U.S.

Naval War Col-

lege. She is the 23rd commanding officer of MIDGETT. Captain Meese hosted a retirement ceremony directly after change of command, effectively ending his 24 year Coast Guard career.



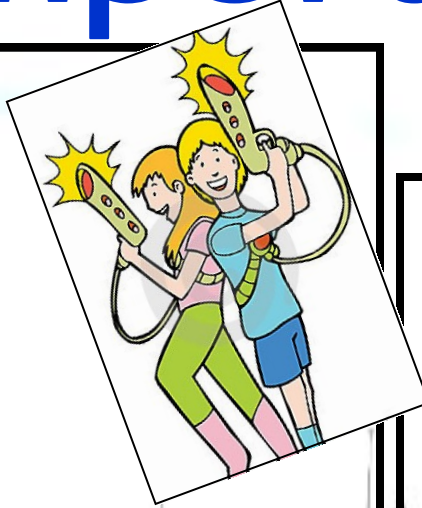
Captain Dickey's Bio
1990-1992: DWO/OPS, USCGC MADRONA (WLB-302)
1992-1994: XO, USCGC KEY LARGO (WPB 1324)
1994-1997: SAR Controller, LANTAREA/5th District
1997-1999: CO, USCGC CHINCO-TEAGUE (WPB 1324)
1999-2002: University of North Carolina School of Law
2002-2004: Staff Attorney, Norfolk Legal Division
2004-2005: XO, USCG Patrol Forces Southwest Asia
2005-2007: XO, USCGC DALLAS (WHEC 716)
2007-2009: CO, USCGC DEPENDABLE (WMEC-626)
2009-2011: U.S. Senate Liaison, Office of Congressional Affairs

Morale!

Inport News

Habitat for Humanity

MIDGETT morale has put together two awesome morale events over the past two months. On August 17th MIDGETT had a morale event at the Tukwila Family Fun Center in Tukwila, WA. Over 30 crew and family members attended and enjoyed an awesome afternoon of go-carts, mini golf, laser tag and bumper boats. The highlight of the afternoon was the laser tag team comprised of OS2 Pelham, ET2 Reyes, YN3 Wheeler, BMC Gamad and ENS C. Martin, who combined to get a huge victory at the laser tag course for team MIDGETT. Everyone had a great time and it was an awesome way for crewmembers and families to get together before patrol.



MIDGETT crew members volunteered in several Habitat for Humanity projects this past inport. Led by ET3 Andersen, MIDGETT crew traveled to building sites in Skagit County, Kent, and Renton to work on carpenter and painting projects. More Habitat Humanity volunteer events are scheduled for the next inport.

-ENS Subramanian

MIDGETT morale also hosted its first golf tournament on August 24th. A group of MIDGETT crewmembers hit the links for a friendly competition. OS3 Flores and ET1 Butler took first place honors with an impressive round. BMC Morseburg won closest to the pin with an impressive shot on one of the courses par 3's and OS3 Flores crushed a drive to win the longest drive. The MIDGETT morale team would like to send a special thank you to ET1 Butler for helping to set up prizes and arranging tee times at Foster Golf Links. We look forward to seeing more crewmembers at events coming up in the near future!

-ENS C. Martin



Port Call Kodiak, AK



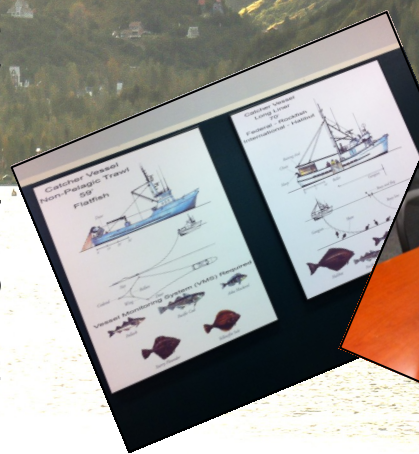
In the days before a coming port call, it's common to hear about things to do and

must see places or activities. Aside from the cold weather, the seas, and the lack of sunshine, you could tell we were heading north to Kodiak by the conversations alone. There was talk about where the bears were, what fish were running in the rivers, and if the sun was ever going to come out.

Our main focus in Kodiak was mission oriented. Our boarding team members and boarding officers attended fish school. The Engineers worked long hours behind the scenes to make sure MIDGETT was ready for any challenges the Alaskan seas could throw at us. With the ship running on all cylinders, and our law enforcement teams ready to tackle a complex and important mission, the crew also took some time to get off the ship and see what Kodiak had to offer.

Some of us were focused on adventure, like searching what rivers to fish from, what peak to hike, and even what beach to surf. Others were out to reconnect with old shipmates. Kodiak has the largest Coast Guard base in the country.

The base is home to three cutters, an aids to navigation team, a Communications station, and an Air station. The rest of the crew focused on relaxing and taking some time out from the hustle and bustle of underway life. Some strolled through Kodiak's downtown and bought gifts for family members. Others took advantage of the great facilities on base Kodiak. And unlike our port calls down south, we could contact family and friends with ease. With Kodiak Island sinking below the horizon, the crew of the MIDGETT looks forward to the mission and adventures ahead.



-BM3 Franzese

Bravo Zulu!



4 – KODIAK DAILY MIRROR, Monday, September 17, 2012

Letter to the Editor

Thanks for helping me off Barometer

To the Editor:

I'm a 56-year-old woman from Wisconsin. I found myself stuck on Barometer Mountain and unable to get down. Luckily, SN Josef Henthorn from the Coast Guard Cutter Midgett came to my rescue. He helped me get off the scary ledge I was on and then escorted me all the way back down the slippery trail.

Thank you, Josef, for your kindness. You're a life saver!

Signed — A person who will never hike alone again.

Judy Dow,
Wisconsin



SN Josef Henthorn (pictured above) is commended for assisting an Alaskan visitor down Barometer Mountain.
SN Henthorn's behavior proves that being in the Coast Guard is a full time duty. BZ!

Advancements, Awards, Departures, and Welcome Aboards

Departures:

FN Pinkham
SN Sorenson
SN England
SN Correal

Temporary Cutterman:

BM3 Patino

FN Zaman

Advancements:

FS2 Doty

MK2 Cole

FN Zaman

FN Alvarez

Welcome

Aboard:

GM3 Loring

OS3
Robertson

ME3 Vela



Sea Service Ribbon:

SN Milliron

SN Carbury

SN Clary

ET2 Wonder

SN Miller

FN Peacock

SN Shirey

Good Conduct:

BM2 Suda

OS2 Black

FSCS Pace



Photo Credits:
FS1 VanKampen
BM3 Franzese